

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01286 051710Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 EB-04 /035 W  
-----126862 051833Z /42

P 042127Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7980

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1286

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, HA  
SUBJ: SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO HAITI

1. HAVING READ THE LATEST DRAFT DECISION MEMORANDUM DATED MARCH 23 REGARDING SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR HAITI, I WISH TO REGISTER MY COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION ADVOCATED BY ARA, PM, AND EB. IF THE PAPER HAS STILL NOT GONE TO THE SECRETARY I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER SOME ARGUMENTS WHICH I FEEL FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE CASE IN FAVOR OF THE SALES.

2. SINCE MILITARY SALES ARE SEEN BY THE GOH AS PART AND PARCEL OF OUR TOTAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP, I THINK IT IMPORTANT TO STRESS THAT THE EXISTING MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN HAITI IS, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THE ONLY SUCH PROGRAM IN THE HEMISPHERE CONCEIVED AND IMPLEMENTED IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE. OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO HAITI WAS TOTALLY CUT OFF BETWEEN 1963 AND 1973. OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HAITIANS, THEREFORE, IS NOT AHOLDOVER FROM THE 1960S AND BEFORE BUT IS GOVERNED BY A SMALL, CAREFULLY-CONSTRUCTED PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO NON-SECURITY DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED FUNCTIONS OF THE HAITIAN ARMED FORCES. THE GOH HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVE-  
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PAGE 02 PORT A 01286 051710Z

MENTS IN OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST YEAR AS DESCRIBED IN THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM. DENIAL OF THE LICENSES ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO REMOVING THE CARROT AND APPLYING THE STICK WHEN THE HORSE HAS GIVEN NO SIGN OF BALKING.

3. HA'S CATALOG OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFICIENCIES IN THE DECISION

MEMORANDUM IS MISLEADING IN SEVERAL RESPECTS. A) THE STATE-  
MENT "NO TRIALS HAVE BEEN REPORTED USING THE NEW PROCEDURES  
YET HAITIAN EXILE GROUPS HAVE SUBMITTED THE NAMES OF EIGHT  
INDIVIDUALS BELIEVED TO REMAIN IMPRISONED," IMPLIES THAT  
THE GOH HAS NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH ON ITS CREATION OF A NEW  
COURT TO TRY SECURITY OFFENDERS. IN TRUTH, IT HAS NOT NEEDED  
TO SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRESTS OF SECURITY OFFENDERS  
REPORTED SINCE THE NEW PROCEDURES WERE DECREED. AS FOR THE  
EIGHT INDIVIDUALS ALLEGED TO REMAIN IMPRISONED, NONE OF OUR  
SOURCES HERE, INCLUDING THOSE OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT, HAVE  
ANY EVIDENCE THAT ANY OF THE EIGHT ARE ALIVE IN PRISON.  
GOVERNMENT SOURCES REITERATE THAT NO POLITICAL PRISONERS  
REMAIN AND IMPLY THAT THE EIGHT ARE DEAD. B) AS THE DE-  
PARTMENT IS AWARE, THE ASSAILANTS OF THE "DISSIDENT JOURNALIST"  
HAVE NOW BEEN TRIED AND CONVICTED AS HAS A MILITARY OFFICER  
WHO SHOT A CIVILIAN WITHOUT CAUSE. C) FINALLY, HA ASSERTS  
THAT THE IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE "DO NOT JUSTIFY  
STARTING UP THE MILITARY SUPPLY BELT." THE BEST WAS STARTED  
UP WHEN OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS WERE RENEWED IN 1973 IN  
RESPONSE TO THE IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. DENYING THESE  
LICENSES WOULD BE STOPPING THE BELT. IT WOULD ACCOMPLISH  
NOTHING INsofar AS HUMAN RIGHTS IS CONCERNED AND COULD  
ACTUALLY STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE OLD GUARD.  
JONES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO HAITI  
**TAGS:** MASS, HA, US  
**To:** STATE  
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